Why the Young in the Faith Need Guidance

Just as in a natural family, for children to reach the stature of a grown man, they must be subject to their parents in all things. (Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. 1 Peter 5:5)

Reading these epistles, we observe the relationship between Paul and his beloved children. Even though Timothy and Titus had the stature of grown men, they received commands and assignments from their spiritual father. (For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee. Titus 1:5; This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy... that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience. 1 Timothy 1:18,19)

The model of submission we must follow is given by the Lord Jesus. (I can of mine own self do nothing. John 5:30; He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. 1 John 2:6)

Submission is described in Scripture as being full obedience without deviation to the right or to the left. (And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee. Thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left. Deuteronomy 17:11)

We can only adopt the traits of Christ if we obey our elders in all things. (Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17; And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints. Ephesians 4:11-12)

Parents are those who correct and use the rod for children who err. (Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:2)

To understand how serious disobedience is, we will highlight its consequences. In ancient times, the punishment for disobedience towards those deemed to lead the people was physical death. (And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously. Deuteronomy

17:12-13; see the rebellion of Korah and his company.)

In the Church of Christ, things are very similar. If anyone among the members of the body will dare out of pride not to listen to those whom the Lord has deemed worthy to shepherd the flock, they must bear the consequence of being removed from the body of Christ. (But if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Matthew 18:17)

Regarding the relationship we can have with a heathen, Scripture highlights it through the words spoken by the apostle Peter in the house of Cornelius the centurion. (And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Acts 10:28)

By stating, "Let him be unto thee as an heathen," the Lord Jesus commands us to cut off any connection and isolate those who have disregarded the authority ordained by God, to avoid contaminating the members with the sin of rebellion/disregard for the authority of the Church. (For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. Deuteronomy 7:4) In the Body of Christ, obedience is mandatory, it being strictly necessary in the process of growth, it is the only way to reach unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

We advise the reader not to wish to be alone or to be in a gathering that practices only worship and preaching, to be solitary, like an orphan child, and thus avoid the Body of Christ, which is well knit together and closely joined. Let us flee from the assembly that does not practice care and submission; which does not have spiritual parents. There is the work of Satan with which he has deceived the religious world, there is not the Body of Christ.

Let us desire to be in a body where the whole Word of Christ can be fulfilled, where each member gives their part to reach the stature for which we were created, to imprint the image of Christ in us.

Questions:

– Do we have spiritual parents who care for and teach us until Christ is formed in us? Or, are we just any member/an orphan child?

– If we have spiritual parents, do they teach us not to resist the one who does us harm, not to love the world, not to work under the table, to pay our taxes...?

– Do they check if we put them into practice, are we rebuked if we have not done them?

– Do they watch over us so that nothing bad happens to us, so that we do not fall into sin? (1 Peter 5:2)

– Do we give double honor to our spiritual fathers? Are we submissive to them? (1 Timothy 5:17)

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "The Church – The Body of Christ", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.